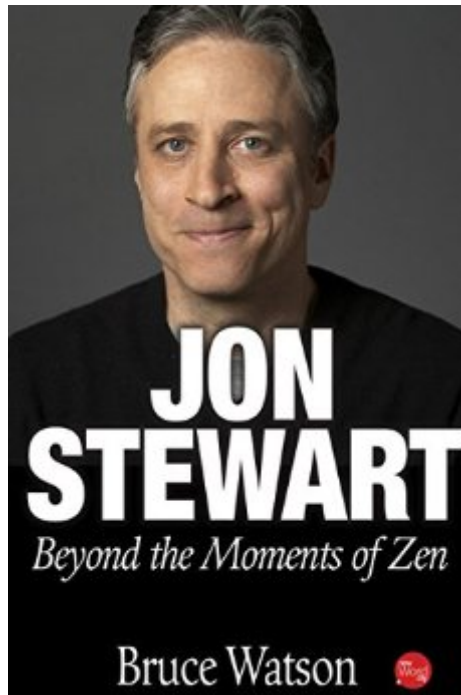


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Jon Stewart: Beyond The Moments Of Zen



Synopsis

Jon Stewart, host of Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*, has been called a "cultural force" and "the most influential man in America." In this newly expanded, new edition of this pioneering biography, award-winning journalist Bruce Watson charts Stewart's remarkable rise from a wise-cracking New Jersey comic to a powerful pundit hosting presidents and prime ministers, all with a smirk.

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Customer Reviews

This is a solid, well-written bio of "the most trusted" (and honest) man on TV. It's not only informative and easy to read but the generous samples of past Daily Shows make it funny. I'd forgotten how the show covered the Iraq war buildup but here's all the madness again. And the Bush-Gore runoff. And Dick Cheney. And Stewart's Crossfire flap. And his onscreen duel with Jim Cramer. And who knew he proposed to his wife in a crossword puzzle? If you want to know what makes Stewart and his show tick, what makes them honest, what makes them great, it's all here.

As a big Jon Stewart fan, I found this a pleasant read. It doesn't break any new ground; in a way I find this a good thing. He is very private about family matters and I'm glad that his privacy wasn't invaded. It was more like a very long magazine piece, which was fine by me. In other words, if your expectations are for an extensive, insightful biographical analysis, you'll be disappointed. If you're looking for something that's a nice enough portrait of one of the more influential voices in the public eye, it's a worthwhile way to spend an hour or two.

I found the evolution of the Daily Show fascinating. As one who has watched it from around the year 2000 I did not remember how much it had changed. I thought the TIVO moments and one on one self-inflicted wounds of pundits and politicians alike had always been part of the show. Not so. I view the Daily Show as the most consistently funny and rewarding half hours on television. It is the much needed Anti-Fox with a lot more laughs than MSNBC.

After reading this summary of Jon Stewart's work, all I could think was, 'Wow, now I'd like to read a REAL biography of Jon Stewart!' This biography contains little more information than is publicly accessible, and with which, I, a casual fan of Jon Stewart, was not already familiar. There were no exclusive interviews with anyone close to the comic, nor with the comic himself. By far the best section of the book was first chapter...which coincided with the free sample section on . The book is much weaker after that, does little other than summarize important interviews the comic himself has given, and leaves a profound sense of missed opportunity to fully explore this important American voice of reason and perspective in this age.

As a 60 year old grandmother, I am not the typical demographic target for The Daily Show. That said, I can be proudly counted among Jon's biggest fans. I've been watching him since about 2004 and bought my first TiVo expressly for his show. I am glad the book protected his zealously guarded privacy, however, most of the content is old news to anyone who follows the show regularly. It contains mostly verbatim accounts of skits and 'reports' from TDS. I learned some things about the early, post Kilborn days, but otherwise not much. Still in all, it is always enjoyable to read about my favorite satirist/comedian and see that others feel the same way about him.

I enjoyed what was presented, but felt that the book was not very complete and lacked in interesting anecdotes and the inclusion of a good photo selection. I really didn't learn much about Jon Stewart that I didn't already know.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Yes, a lot of it was repeating things that had been said on the program, but they were fun then and they were fun in the book. I also learned a little more about Jon and his life.

I'd hoped for something more. It was a nice book report. I give it a 'B-' for effort. Watson did a good job covering Jon Stewart's Daily Show phenomenon and gave a decent view of Jon. But there isn't a lot of anything new or particularly insightful for a fan of the show. Good overview of Jon's professional career from news sources. Doesn't give one a more than a surface understanding of Jon.

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